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Energy Bill Passes House

Bill included Akin-Costello clean coal initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C.- A bill that helps modernize aging energy infrastructure while promoting conservation and production passed the House of Representatives late last night. The Securing America's Future Energy (Safe Act) includes a version of the clean coal initiatives introduced by U.S. Congressman and Science Committee members Todd Akin and Jerry Costello that authorize the Department of Energy to accelerate the development of clean coal technologies.

"Coal comprises 85 percent of our fossil fuel resources; we have enough for 250 years of additional use," said Congressman Akin during the floor debate. "But by making it more efficient and by making it cleaner we can improve the air quality. That's important to me because we have air quality problems in the St. Louis area."

The Safe Act, modeled after President Bush's national energy policy unveiled earlier this year, would:

- Encourage greater domestic energy production
- Help modernize America's aging energy infrastructure, including pipelines and electric grids
- Provide incentives for new and cleaner energy sources, including hydroelectric power, clean coal technology and alternative fueled vehicles like gas-electric hybrid cars.